Information Booklet

Schedule of Events & More!

Booklet sponsored by the Rogue River Kiwanis Club and the Rooster Crow Committee

Welcome to Rooster Crow 2024!

On behalf of the Kiwanis club of Rogue River and the Rooster Crow Committee, welcome to the Annual National Rooster Crow weekend- the 71st such event carrying on the community tradition of wonderful family-focused fun with all sorts of activities. On Friday, the Rogue River Community Center puts on a "rooster" dinner. Saturday's events are kicked off with the parade, then the everpopular entertaining Human Crow and the real deal Rooster Crowing Competition followed, by a live band.

We thank the many community volunteers who make this event happen. We'd also like to acknowledge the many businesses and civic organizations that have supported the publication of this booklet and this event which allow your Kiwanis Club to continue serving the youth of Rogue River, Evans Valley and Wimer. Please patronize these folks whenever possible.

Their support allows us to:

· Offer scholarships to deserving area seniors.

· Recognize local students of the month.

· Provide a Halloween safe house at the Live Oak Grange with games and snacks.

· Support the Rogue River Community Center's annual Christmas basket program.

· Hold the popular Easter Egg Hunt at Beck Field.

And so much more!

If you are a community-focused, good hearted, and fun-loving person, please consider joining us in our efforts. Members of our club will be around all weekend, especially at our popular soft serve ice-cream stand. Stop by and say hello, we'd enjoy meeting you.

Have a terrific weekend!

Mark Reagles
Kiwanis Club of Rogue River
P.O. Box 35
Rogue River, OR 97537

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A Special Thanks to all the great volunteers that help make this such a wonderful event for family and friend to enjoy and make memories.

Rogue River's Been Crowing Since 1953

The City of Rogue River Welcome's you to the "71st Annual Rogue River National Rooster Crowing Contest"

"71 Years And Rogue River is Still Crowing"

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The Mayor and City Council are proud to be hosting this years Rooster Crow in "Rooster Park".

City of Rogue River

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2024 Rooster Crow Grand Marshals: Mark & Carla Reagles

Brian Mortensen
Rogue River Press

Rooster Crow Grand Marshal Duo - Carla and Mark Reagles.

Mark and Carla Reagles were wondering, as many people who receive the call asking if they would like to be Grand Marshals of the Rogue River Rooster Crow Parade, why them?

"It was way early for me. I just retired," said Mark, the former City Administrator who just stepped down in September 2022.

"When Mark told me, I said, 'What? I thought only old people did that,'" Carla, who retired after 21 years working at Rogue River Junior Senior High School, said.

"I figured that would be something maybe that happened down the road, but, sure, more than happy to continue to be part of this event, and anything we can do to be a part of the city," Mark said.

But this might be the time to honor the couple in an event for which Mark's leadership as the City Administrator for 22 years has left its indelible imprint.

His work, along with that of the city council in office in the last decade, helped bring about Rooster Park.

On the day of this interview, Mark and Carla were sitting in the shade of the gazebo at Rooster Park. A boy with his mother had turned the water in the splash pad yards away, watching the water shoot skyward amid green grass, and a giant rooster sculpture on its southwest corner and permanently mounted board games on the park's perimeter.

"They have been working really hard to get all of the final pieces to the puzzle put together, so it's turning out really, really nice," Mark Reagles said.

Rooster Park, at the corner of Pine and First Streets, was originally owned by the Rogue River School District. The school district sold the lot to a bank, and the city was able to buy it.

"The City Council had been talking about doing some park in town, and they saw that this piece was available," he said. "I think the school (district) sold it for $300,000 or so when they originally sold it, and we ended up paying, like, $150,(000), like half of what it was."

see REAGLES on page 12

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
ANNUAL ROOSTER CROW - 2024

FRIDAY, JUNE 28:

1
4:00 pm
Annual Rooster Crow Kick-Off Dinner
Rogue River Community Center
133 Broadway
Sponsored by the Rooster Crow Committee

2
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Live Entertainment performed by
"JD the Singing Barber"
Woodville Museum Gazebo

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

3
10:00 am
Rooster Crow Parade
Line up at the Woodville Shopping Center

2
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Live Entertainment performed by the
"Don West Band"
Woodville Museum Bandstand

7
12:00 pm
Cal-Ore Hydroplane Racers Time Trials
John F. Fleming Park

4
1:30 pm
Human Rooster Crow Contest
Rooster Crow Arena

4
2:30 pm
National Rooster Crowing Contest
Rooster Crow Arena

4
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
"Brass Alibi Band"
Rooster Crow Pavilion

Vendors & Live Entertainment throughout the Day

SUNDAY, JUNE 25:

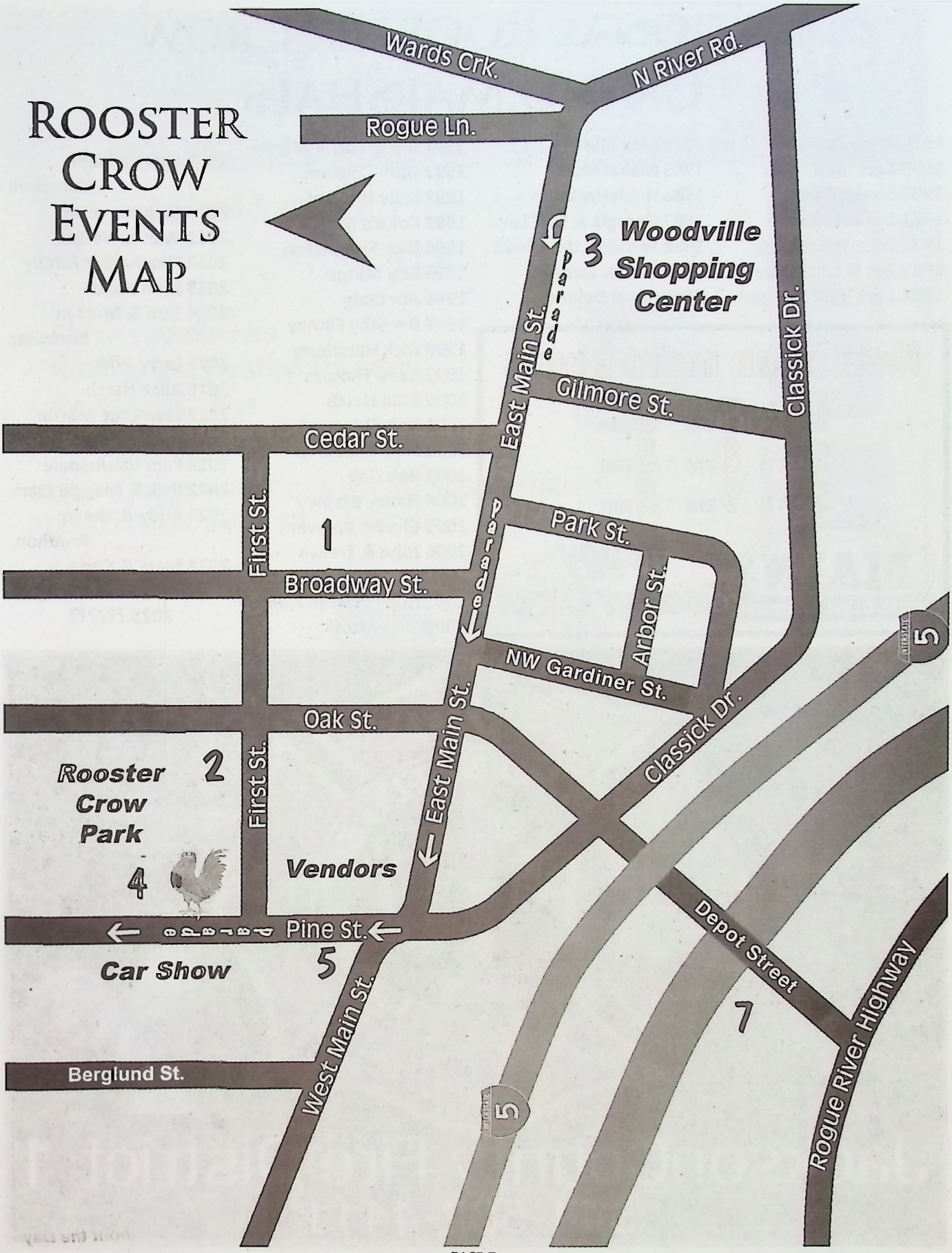
5
9:00 am
Rooster Crow Car Show

4
10:00 am
"Church at the Crow"
Pastor Rodger Coale - Cowboy Church

7
12:00 pm
Cal-Ore Hydroplane Racers
Main Event Races
John F. Fleming Park

Vendors & Live Entertainment throughout the Day

Rooster Crow Events Map



National Rooster Crow Grand Marshals

1978 Anna Classick
1979 Carl "Bud" Dick
1980 Shade Combs
1981 Dennis Hitch
1982 Glen Wooldridge
1983 Jim & Lottie Martin
1984 Carl "Bud" Magerle
1984 May Ellis
1985 Mabel Rigel
1986 Hugh Hartman
1987 Georgia & Carl Lane
1988 Jeanette Umscheid
1989 Walter Dennis
1990 Royal Deland
1991 Jim & Lottie Martin
1992 Gary Chittum
1992 Sally Holiday
1993 Colista Moore
1994 Dick Skevington
1995 Roy Milton
1996 Jim Craig
1997 Dorothy Finney
1998 Dick Handbury
1999 Dave Thomas
2000 Dale Hatch
2001 Bob Kirkwood
2002 Fred Boettcher
2003 Bob Gail
2004 Nancy Bradley
2005 Charlie Weaver
2006 John & Treeva Schaeffer
2007 Hope Warren Family
2008 Tom Artoff
2009 Ellen & Ralph Campbell
2010 Nick Niquette
2011 Wanda Nesbit
2012 Neathamer Family
2013 John Bond
2014 Sam & Marilyn Evensizer
2015 Larry Wills
2016 Alice Hatch
2017 Lawrence Martin
2018 Dennis Artoff
2019 Pam VanArsdale
2022 Rick & Maggie Clark
2023 Andy & Sherry Prudhon
2024 Mark & Carla Reagles
2025 ??????

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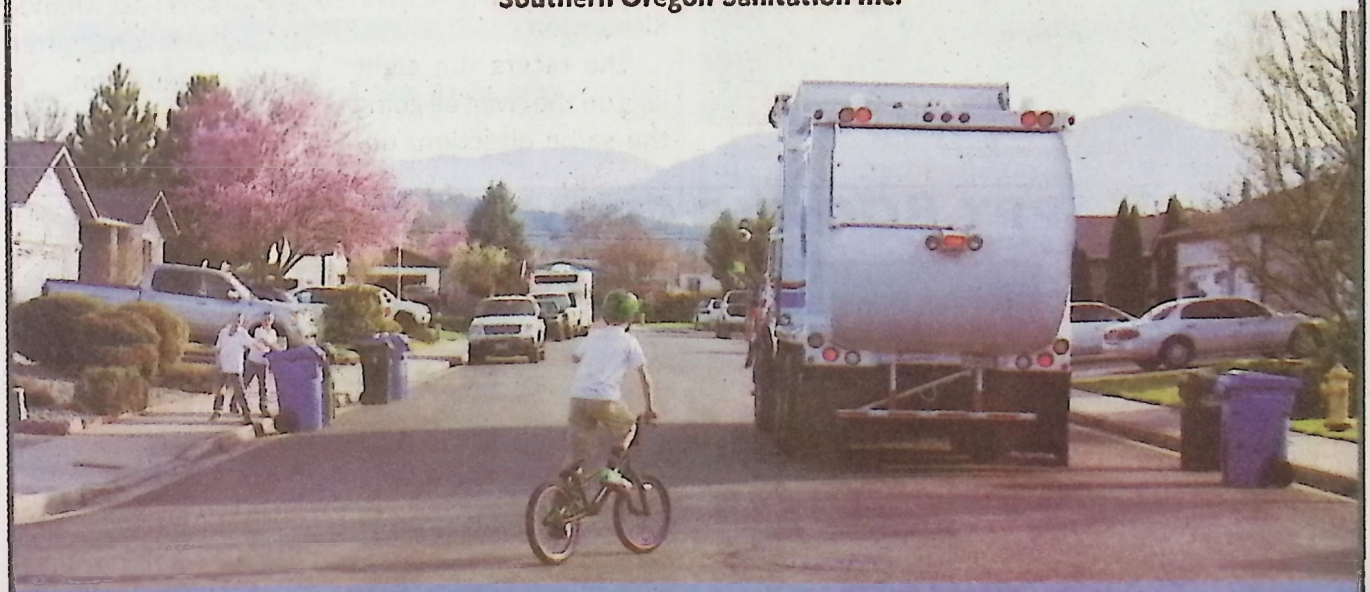

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Cal-Ore River Racers Back

Cal-Ore Racers Return

Brian Mortensen
Rogue River Press

Part of the fun of the Rooster Crow Weekend is the competition on the river.

The Ore-Cal River Racers hydroplane boats returns to Rogue River for what will be the fourth race in its summer series, with a time trial on Sat., June 29, and its race on Sun., June 30.

Jude Hostler one of the several racers from Hoopa, Calif., won the race last year, his first-ever Cal-Ore win, in the tie-breaking eighth leg to beat points leader Ryan Richardson

The racers run eight legs on the river, all going the same direction, upstream from a point east of Savage Rapids to Twin Bridges, and back the same direction downstream. The racers go upstream four times and make the full downstream run three times. The final downstream run finishes at the Coyote Evans boat ramp.

Racing on June 30 is at noon, while the time trial on Sat., June 29 is also at noon. These are two separate competitions that affect the Cal-Ore racers' points series.

Richardson won his third straight Tom Rice Memorial Race at Boatnik in Grants Pass Memorial Day weekend, after Roger Sanderson, a seven-time season

see RACERS on page 11

Rogue River Alumni Picnic

Brian Mortensen
Rogue River Press

Have you ever wondered what your town was like 50 years ago?

Possibly, the best way find out is to ask someone who saw the town with his or her own eyes.

Alumnus from what was once called Rogue River High School have been gathering in Rogue River, specifically Palmerton Park, to reconnect and meet with alums from other classes, possibly of their classmates, even grandchildren, for years, at the Rogue River High School All-Alumni Picnic.

The picnic is on Sunday, June 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Palmerton Park.

The gathering has been called the Old Timer's Picnic. It has been held at Palmerton Park nearly every year for years, even generations.

RACERS from page 10

champion, won the season-opening race at Hoopa on the Klamath River May 12.

Sanderson was second at Boatnik. Hostler, 54, who is Sanderson's third cousin, was fourth at Hoopa and third at Boatnik.

Jesse Reinhart, who won the 2016 Rogue River Race, won the Saturday time trial, while Richardson was second. Reinhart won the Cal-Ore 2023 season championship.

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REAGLES from page 5

Original plans for Rooster Park were drawn up as early as 2017, but the funding and in-kind work to put it all together took years; through the help of a $250,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Committee, "COVID(-19) money flying around," and two visits from the Washington National Guard 176th Engineers Company in the summers of 2021 and '22, and it has slowly taken shape.

"It just turned out super well," Mark Reagles said. "We got some beautiful buildings in here that I think will really help in the long run for Rooster Crow. We've got some shade in here finally, some places were people can get out of the sun."

The Reagles's retirement did not get off on the right foot when Carla was diagnosed with breast cancer. After a year of treatment, she began to feel better, and they began to travel, heading to Aruba with family and then to Hawaii with other friends. They also took the time to visit family in Douglas County, where they are from. They have a long road trip planned for later this summer.

Mark said he's playing more golf, mainly with friends at Applegate River Golf Club and his grandson, who's starting to take up the game.

Mark and Carla have three sons: Jason, their oldest, who lives in Roseburg, and Blake and Mitchell, who live in the Rogue Valley.

Mark and Carla said they feel special to be among the citizens who have been named Grand Marshals of the Rooster Crow parade.

"We're in some really special company that have grand marshals," Mark said. "We've had opportunities over the years to go other places. We've always talked about going back home to the Roseburg area. My parents are still up there, all of Carlas's family, my family, but we just really love it here. It has everything to offer, weather, the people, sitting between Medford and Grants Pass."

"And your friends become your family when you don't have a family here," Carla said.

"We have a lot of special friends here that make it really fun to stay here," Mark said.

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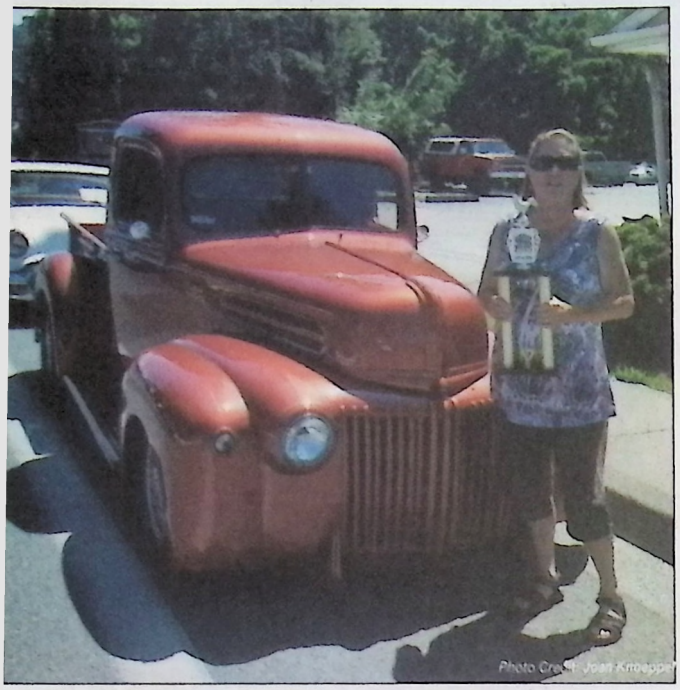
2023 Car Show Winners



Joan Knoeppel of Wimer said it was a 'bittersweet" moment winning Best of Show for the orange 1946 Ford pickup her late husband Gary refurbished after earning it in a trade for carpentry work.

With weather that had the feel of a California beach summer day, a more significant number of car enthusiasts came out for the Rooster Crow Car Show on Sun., June 25.

There were some 94 vehicles, representing pre-1975, and there never is a short supply of those and car owners willing to show them off on a sunny day.

There were many old favorites, cars that you might have seen along Pine Street on Rooster Crow Sunday, but you don't mind seeing them again and again.

Some new ones catch your eye, like the 1948 Magenta Ford pickup near the corner of Pine and Foothill Boulevard, owned by Ron Atkinson of Grants Pass, or the 1941 Ford pickup owned by Don Phillips of Wimer.

Phillips' '41 is an interesting vehicle, its engine and front tires exposed, a skull, and longhorns mounted to the grille. It's matte gray has rooster cutouts around its bed, with a rifle mounted to its roof.

The gun works, you're told, and you think of 1930s gangster movies and gun battles on the run. It shoots water. In the passenger seat was a mean-looking, but mostly sleepy, dog named Nala.

The iridescent tropical-colored 1965 Chevy was farther up Pine Street, owned by the Jenkins Family of White City, was a head-turner, as was the green 1961 model of the rare British Morgan Motors, owned by Mark Stiver of Rogue River.

And then there's the pristine Oldsmobile Holiday with the immaculate paint job, two-toned with white and House of Color Tangello, a tribute to Oakland auto painter Tommy the Greek, owned by Ron Lopes in Wimer.

See CAR SHOW page 23

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Rogue River Kiwanis
AWARDS PROGRAMS

For over a century, Kiwanis International has created opportunities for children to learn, experience, dream, grow, succeed, and thrive. Service is the heart of every local Kiwanis club and your local Rogue River Kiwanis team meets their high standards.

An example of giving local children opportunities comes in the form of fundraising for scholarships. In 2024, graduating seniors received $4500 in scholarships from Kiwanis.

Also, every month during the school year in partnership with their faculties and administration, the Rogue River Kiwanis Club recognizes students from each class of the Rogue River Junior/Senior High School (RRJSHS) and one junior and one senior high school student from the South Valley Academy (SVA) as Students of the Month.

A counselor, from RRJSHS and SVA, receives recommendations from the teachers and then orchestrates a confidential voting from their complete staff team to determine each month's recipients.

The students and their guests attend one of the monthly Kiwanis lunch meetings at the Live Oak Grange Hall at which time they are individually recognized for their achievements in academic growth or excellence, school/class leadership, community service, and/or extracurricular activities. In addition to a delicious, homemade lunch prepared in the Grange kitchen, each awardee is presented with their own certificate. Additionally, their group photo and names appear in the *Rogue River Press*.

"It's a great experience to meet with these students every month and have them interact with our club," commends Kiwanis member Art Ferranti.

"There's a spark and energy that emanates from them and you can just feel they not only a real impact in their school today, but will continue to do so in their future endeavors, careers, and communities."

If you'd like to learn more about this or the other activities of the Rogue River Kiwanis, go to their Facebook page at *www.facebook.com/ rrkiwanisclub/* and send an e-mail or drop by the Live Oak Grange on Gardiner Street at noon Wednesdays.

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Record-Low Crow

On a warm day that seemed to wilt most of the competition among the 24-field in the National Rooster Crowing Championship, a rooster with the unassuming name Buffy, raised by a thoughtful youth from Wimer, earned his place in history.

Buffy, a year-old Buff Orpington rooster, crowed 19 times during the half-hour mid-afternoon competition at Rogue River's Rooster Park.

That was enough to win.

Penelope Judson, 10, is one of the youngest winners after her rooster, Buffy, crowed only 19 times - enough to win the 2023 title.

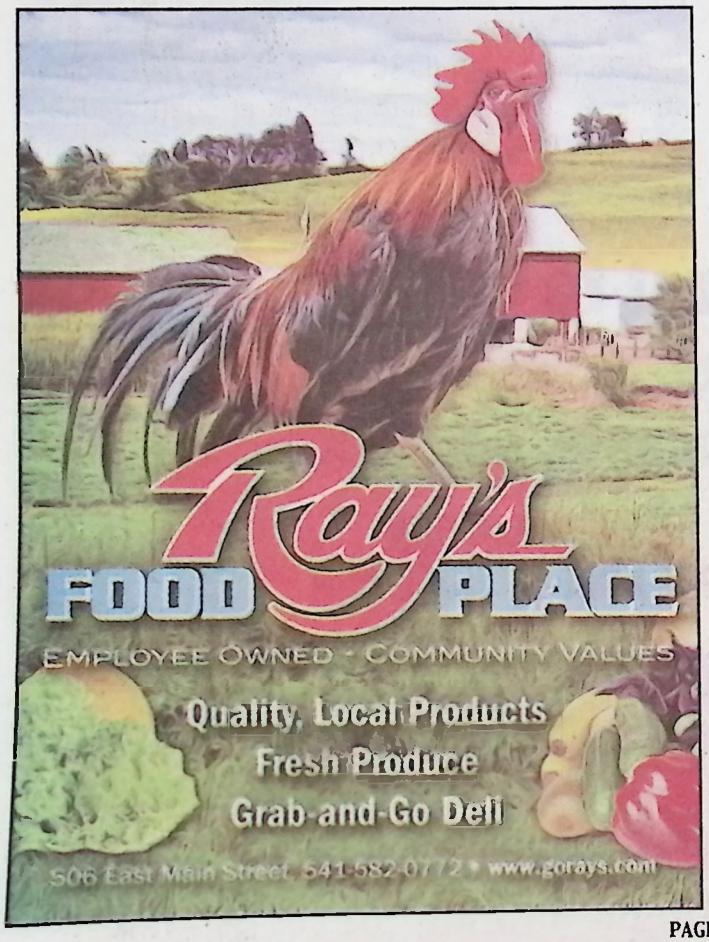
On a day when most of the feathered contestants barely uttered a peep, Buffy's sound-off shattered the record for the fewest crows needed to win. Stew M. Wright, the 2003 winner, crowed 25 times for the previous record. But that's still crowing, on average, every one minute, 12 seconds.

Buffy was able to win by crowing, again, on average, with more than a minute and a half between each of his crows. The weather was warm, at 83 degrees, not nearly as hot as other Rooster Crow Saturday afternoons, but with 37 percent humidity.

When Chris Rock won in 2022 with 81 crows in the first Rooster Crowing competition in three years, it broke a string of four straight Rooster Crow victories by roosters that had crowed fewer than 50 times in the allotted 30 minutes. Chris Rock's son, Eddie Murphy, was even among the field.

Barbara Loya Sanchez of Hawthorne, Calif., announced That Eddie Murphy was among the contestants during the Human Crow-

see 2023 CROW WINNER on page 22



2023 Human Crow Contest

Rudd Howell of Brookings, left, won his third Human Crowing Contest, while Barbara Loya Sanchez, middle, of Hawthorne, Calif., was second, and local Trisha Cromwell, the 2022 champion, was third, out of 13 crowers.

Rudd Howell is not a local. He lives in Brookings, on the Oregon coast, where he is a retired house painter. All he's done as a frequent visitor to the area is win the Human Rooster Crowing competition during Rooster Crow Weekend three times.

"I'd been coming to the Rooster Crow since 1960," he said, noting that he's now 74 years old, adding gravity to his having witnessed the early days of what is Rogue River's signature event.

Howell was given the audience's vote over 11 other competitors, one of them 2022 Human Crow champion Trisha Cromwell, who finished third. Howell also won the Human Crowing Contest in 2001 and 2016.

Barbara Loya Sanchez, who lives in Hawthorne, Calif., announced that Eddie Murphy, the son of last year's National Rooster Crow Championship Chris Rock, was a contestant in this year's contest, only minutes away.

And she said she wanted to tell a joke to calm her nerves before attempting her first-round crow.

"Why did the French Fry cross the road?"

"To ketchup to the chicken, of course!"

Five finalists were picked by judges, one of whom include Rogue River City Council member Barb Hilty.

Crowing 71 Years and Counting

Rooster Crow circa 1954.

Rogue River's famed Rooster Crow Contest started in 1953 as a clever, some say silly, way to let folks know that Rogue River is a town, not just a river.

Shade Combs, inspired by the tale of Welsh coal miners who staged colorful rooster crowing contests during their holidays, shared the idea with fellow merchants interested in generating a little publicity and self-promotion.

Combs's proposition was accepted by the Rogue River Booster Club and funds were set aside for a cash prize for the owner of the rooster that crowed the most within a 30-minute period.

The first contest was held May 23, 1953. There were 75 roosters perched and ready to let loose when Chief of Police William Peters fired the opening gun at 10 a.m. The caged cocks were free to crow for half an hour. Hollerin' Harry crowed 71 times and earned his owner $50.

Now, $50 was a sizable sum, considering that in 1953, gas was 25 cents a gallon as were a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk. And, coffee was a mere 50 cents a pound.

Interstate 5 had yet to be built, but still more than 500 people traveled to the tiny hamlet of Rogue River to witness the contest held at City Park.

The contest continued to entertain even after the final cock-a-doodle-doo. Grants Pass auctioneer Charlie Morrison auctioned off the fowl---some had gone afoul, ruffling the feathers of their coop-side handlers.

Silent Sam owned by Bill Reeder was offered first. Having lived up to his

See 71 YEARS page 21

ROOSTER CROW CONTEST RULES

On the day of the Rooster Crow, fill out an entry form. Entry forms are available at the registration booth set up at the Crowing Contest area. No prior registration will be made.

Entries will be accepted from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At the time of registration, the roosters will be left in the Rooster Crow Arena.

There is NO ENTRY FEE.

At 2:30 p.m., the Crowing Contest gets underway as the judges to start counting the utterances of the feathered contestants. For 30 solid minutes, the crows of each rooster are recorded by their private judge. Scores are tallied and awards are made at 3:15 p.m.

Cash prizes are presented to the owners of the top three contenders. Those wishing to participate must abide by the following rules:

1. One rooster per person.
2. The rooster must be in the cage.
3. Entrant must furnish one judge 14 years of age or older.
4. Crow tallies may be verified by Crow officials at any time.
5. No mechanical, electrical, physical, or chemical stimulants or devices will be allowed in the cage with the rooster.
6. In no case will the roosters be abused or mistreated.

Interpretation, application and enforcement of these rules are the prerogative of the Rogue River Kiwanis Club and violations may result in warning or disqualification.

BET from page 14

The idea was to see which rooster could crow the most within 30 minutes – and its owner would win money if it crowed the most.

Combs' fellow merchants and the local Booster Club thought it would be a good idea and a cash prize was established. May 23, 1953, marked the first Rooster Crow – more than 500 people were in attendance and there were 75 roosters and their owners in the contest.

Hollerin' Harry was the winner, netting his owner the tidy sum of $50.

The contest was such a success, having drawn media attention from as far as Portland, that Rogue River held another one Sept. 5 that same year.

June 1954 marked the next event, which drew in more than 2,000 people – far more than they had originally anticipated.

From that point on, Rooster Crow has continued to grow and is now one of the most well-known events in the Rogue Valley. Over the years, a parade was added, along with a human crowing contest. And, now, people can also enjoy a classic car show, art shows and hundreds of vendors.

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National Rooster Crow
Past Champions

1953 Hollerin' Harry 71
1953 Beetle Baum 109
1954 Rocky 79
1955 Prince Albert 81
1956 Briggs 70
1957 Goldie 66
1958 Rusty 68
1959 Sandy 96
1960 Jerome 67
1961 Rascal 69
1962 Geronimo 63
1963 Mac-A Do 90
1964 Mac's Joe 69
1965 Black Fella 71
1966 Drum Stick 80
1967 Rinky Dink 49
1968 T-Bird 63
1969 Guber 71
1970 Rex 70
1971 Super Chicken 85
1972 Tom Dooley 73
1973 Great Speckled Bird 63
1974 Wild Bill 59
1975 Rastus 73
1976 Hamlet 57
1977 Doodle Do 62
1978 White Lightning 112
1979 Chunker 98
1980 Lewis (of Lewis & Clark) 87
1981 Crow'n Joe 82
1982 Crow'n Joe 65
1983 Crow'n Joe 70
1984 Chicken Little 83
1985 Crystal's Silver Streak 61
1986 Rosebud 90
1987 Redland Red 48
1988 Will E. Crow 56
1989 Henry 74
1990 Toby 71
1991 Bart 76
1992 Garth 76
1993 Just a Rooster 96
1994 Just a Rooster 68
1995 Mr. Skinhead 69
1996 Fowl Mouth 80
1997 One Eyed Jack 31
1998 Hank 50
1999 Henry Rooster 42
2000 Love Machine 36
2001 Splash 49
2002 Warfield 46
2003 Stew M. Wright 25
2004 Trigger 42
2005 B.W. 107
2006 Winchester 30
2007 Raul 45
2008 Charles 36
2009 Fluffy 42
2010 Bye Bye Bob 63
2011 Bye Bye Bob 63
2012 George 44
2013 Lil' Lung Larry 64
2014 Ben 40
2015 Crow-Darr 52
2016 Buttercup 31
2017 Carter 45
2018 Phoenix 43
2019 SKY H1 37
2022 Chris Rock 81
2023 Buffy 19
2024.....?????

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71 YEARS from page 18

name, his owner disgustedly bid 10 cents and then watched a flurry of bidding. After high bidder Harold McKenzie paid $50, there was a rush of rooster owners hoping to cash in, but the bidding dropped rapidly.

A drizzling rain that turned to a downpour failed to dampen the spirits of the spectators or the boosters, and Medford, Grants Pass and Portland media gave the crow fest such favorable publicity, the boosters decided to hold a second contest on September 5, 1953.

According to a *Rogue River Press* article published in June 1954, organizers expected 1,500 people to attend that summer's crow fest. Instead, 2,000 folks poured into the city and witnessed Rocky knock out the competition with 79 crows.

Before all the cock-a-doodle-doo-ing begins, there is a rooster-themed parade---this year, the theme is "Get Out & Crow!"

In addition to memorabilia, roosters will appear everywhere---on T-shirts, hats, banners, aprons, shoes and flags, and in the form of rooster statues and stuffed roosters.

The late Charlie Weaver, a Kiwanian and a local Realtor, had a front row seat at the Rooster Crow ever since that first one in '53.

"I remember when it was held down on Depot Street," he recalled once. "Cages lined each side of the street, and there were roosters and people up and down, all along the curbs."

He also laughed at the memory of one contest that started with a bang. The police chief was to blow a whistle at 10 a.m. to signal the start. No one heard the whistle, so he fired his pistol.

"Everyone was scared silly, the roosters too," he added.

From Depot Street, the contest moved to where the Umpqua Bank parking lot is today. For years, festivities were held at Wards Creek Park, explained Weaver.

"Well, the freeway took out the park, and that ended that," he added.

The Rogue River Lions Club took over from the Rogue River Boosters Club, and since 1993, the Kiwanis have been lead organizers with the support of the City of Rogue River.

These days, the Rooster Crow shares the spotlight during what has become an entire weekend of activities a parade, the National Human Crow contest, a classic car show, entertainment, arts and crafts, and food.

The weekend-long festival really starts rockin' and rollin' during Saturday's paradefloats, marching units, horses, dogs, llamas, and folks in rooster costumes head down Main Street. Hundreds of people line the streets between the Rogue River Shopping Center and Rogue River Elementary School.

"This all seemed hokey, when I moved here in 2002," said Holly Spitz, then a member of the Chamber of Commerce. "First, you ask yourself why, and then you find yourself saying why not!"

"No one can figure out why, it just is," said Weaver. "People love it. It's just a whole lot of fun."

Added Spitz: "This is small town America. This is what we do."

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2023 CROW WINNER from page 16

ing contest, even telling a joke herself as she made her first-round attempt. But like so many others in the competition, Eddie Murphy was silent, not making a sound. Sanchez said.

Buffy was raised by Penelope Judson, a 10-year-old who lives in Wimer and attends Rogue River Elementary School.

"He's a very sweet rooster," said Lisa Judson, Penelope's mom. "She even has a leash that she leads him around with."

Certainly one of the youngest rooster-raisers in National Championship history, Penelope Judson was in awe, her mouth agape as City Recorder Carol Weir handed her the $150 in crisp American currency.

"What do you say," Lisa Judson playfully reminded her daughter, stunned at the spectacle of having that much moolah in her hand.

"Thank you!"

The competition wasn't even close. Marshall Dillon, a majestic bird owned by Wendy and Russell Hatcher, whose cage bore the warning to all challengers, "Marshall Dillon. I say, Boy, I live in Wimer." He finished with 12 crows and $50 in prize money.

Former Rogue River City Recorder, Carol Weir hands Penelope Judson $150 in cash for her Roosters 19 Crows.

There was a tie for third place between Laurie LeDoux's Butters and Free Range Randy, raised by Christina Carver of Grants Pass, each winning the $35 third-place prize. Carver also won $15 for having the best-decorated cage. Randy's cage had July 4 theme to match the costume and makeup Carver was wearing. She said she had just thrown some decorations on the cage before she brought it for the competition. She said she was surprised that Sharla Gillen, whose Sky Hi had won in 2019, did not come with her creatively and artfully decorated cages, with personally knit covers that earned her several Best Cage awards over the years. "I was hoping she would be here," Carver said.

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CAR SHOW from page 14

Lopes' wife, Joan Knoeppel, owned the Best of Show among those 94 cars.

Knoeppel's is a brilliant orange 1946 Ford pickup. She has won several first-prize class awards for her vehicle, showing it off in about 10 or 12 shows in the summer, but she said when it was announced she was the winner of the biggest prize in her hometown show, "I just lost it."

Calling the occasion "bittersweet," she'll tell you that the pickup came in a trade. Her husband Gary was a carpenter, and a friend wanted him to build a deck for him in 1988 when they lived in Paso Robles, Calif. The friend didn't have the cash, but he offered up his 1946 pickup along with the cash that he had.

"He said, "I just traded for the ugliest pickup Ford makes, and I'm going to make it look nice,'" Knoeppel said. "And he did."

An entry in the 2023 Annual Rooster Crow Car Show

He got the orange color when he saw it on a vehicle at a dealership, and he stopped and found the color coordinates. She said her husband had a car painter friend "tweak" the color, and the brilliant orange is what they came up with.

The Knoeppels retired to Wimer in 2001. Joan tells the story that as soon as they moved to Oregon, Gary immediately had her go to the Department of Motor Vehicles and reserve "46 and Fat" for the pickup's new license plate. Ford pickups, the 1946 variety, were called "Fat Fender Fords."

Her husband Gary died in 2013, which was among the reasons she said she "lost it" when her name was called, and the pickup her late husband made look good was mentioned.

"Don't worry," Knoeppel said her husband Ron told her. "Gary knows."

Judith Caltabiano, who lives in Northern California, won the People's Choice Award with her green 1974 GMC C 1500.

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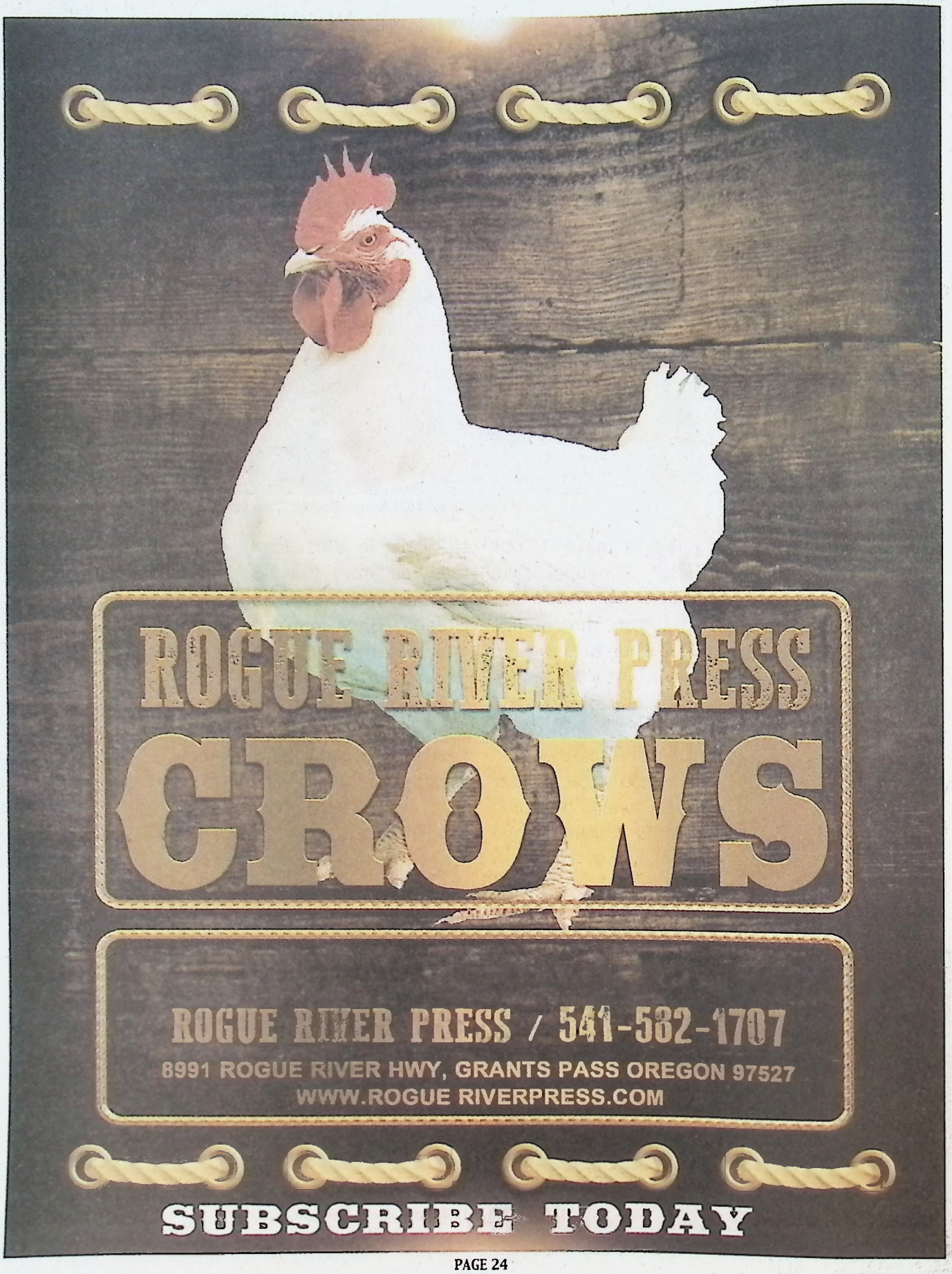
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